

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /047 W
-----016330 041247Z /53

R 031320Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1371
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1787

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINR PINT HU
SUBJECT: FURTHER THOUGHTS ON SHIFTS IN HUNGARIAN LEADERSHIP

REF: BUDAPEST 1690

1. SINCE PREVIOUS REPORTING ON RECENT PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT LARGE NUMBER OF HUNGARIAN ELITE EXPECTED THAT LAZAR WOULD LOSE HIS POSITION AS PRIME MINISTER AS RESULT OF APR 19-20 HSWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER REMOVAL OF BISZKU WILL RELIEVE WHATEVER PRESSURES WERE WORKING AGAINST LAZAR OR ALTERNATIVELY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER MAY EVENTUALLY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POLICIES. IN ANY CASE, MANY HUNGARIANS EXPECT FURTHER CHANGES -- NOT NECESSARILY IMMINENTLY -- EITHER WITH REGARDS TO ECONOMIC MANAGERS OR WITH RESPECT TO ALLEGED BISZKU PROTEGES.

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2. TO QUITE RUMOR MILLS AND CONVEY IMPRESSION OF REGIME SOLIDARITY JANOS KADAR VISITED ONE OF DISTRICTS OF BUDAPEST APR 29, ACCOMPANIED BY BISZKU AND BY NEW FIRST SECRETARY OF BUDAPEST PARTY COMMITTEE, LAJOS MEHES. ALL PAPERS CARRIED PROMINENT ARTICLE OF VISIT. IN ADDITION, NEPSZABADSAG CARRIED PICTURE OF THREE LEADERS ON TOUR.

3. MAY 1 CEREMONIES WERE UNTOWARD WITH KADAR, LAZAR,
AND LOSONCZI PLAYING CUSTOMARY ROLES AND RECEIVING
CUSTOMARY VOTE OF SUPPORT FROM PARADE PARTICIPANTS
WHO CARRIED AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF PORTRAITS OF THE HUNGARIAN LEADERS.
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Message Attributes

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